(e) whether the Government consider that it is necessary to carry out the assurance mentioned in sub-division (a) before the dissolution of the present Council ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) Yes.
(d) Yes. On 29th July 1944.
(e) A decision will be taken in the matter with the least possible delay.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I put the question being an important one?

Mr. President: Have you the consent of the Hon'ble Member ?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I am sorry I have not.

FRANCHISE—WIDENING OF

274. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur):* With reference to the Government's assurance in the House on 23rd March 1943, "Government only want a little more time" (Vide page 522, V, C. L. C. Vol. X, Part 12), will they be pleased to state what they have done to widen the franchise within about the last 2 years after their promise referred to ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):* Government reply was that they prefer to postpone controversial questions like revision of franchise to better times, obviously meaning post-war period. Their position is the same even now.

PLANTING OF SHADE TREES ON RAILWAY PLAT FORMS

275. **Mr. George Panikulam** *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to get shade trees planted at the Railway platforms where such trees do not now exist along the Shoranur Cochin Railway line;

(b) if not, whether the Government will take action to supply this want for the sake of the public who have to travel by rail especially in summer ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) Shade trees have been planted at Ernakulam North and South Stations. As regards other stations where such trees are wanting, the matter is being considered by the Railway Authorities.

(b) No answer is called for in view of the answer to (a).

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN "MALABAR MAIL"

276. **Mr. K. R. Achyuthan** *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the article published on page 1 of "The Malabar Mail" in its issue dated 4th February 1945, under the caption "what relationship between efficiency and qualification ? Certain examples from Service".

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretary to Government):* They have read the article.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO HONORARY DOCTORS

277. **Mr. George Panikulam** *(Irinjalakuda):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the dearness allowance is paid to Honorary Doctors in independent charge of Government Dispensaries and Hospitals where fixed allowances alone are drawn by them;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to extend the dearness allowance to such doctors at least for the future ;

(c) whether such doctors are not ordered by Government to do regular work both in the morning and in the evening like paid doctors who draw dearness allowance ?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(a) No.
(b) No.
(c) Yes.

SUPPLY OF UMBRELLA AND FOOT-WEAR TO ANCHALMEN

278. **Mr. George Panikulam** *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the practice to supply an umbrella and a pair of sandals to every postman in the British Postal Department at Government cost ;

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